

to over 10,000 new recruits. His understanding and natural talent for helping recruits develop into their best selves led to his astounding success. It was after this time that he retired from the Navy to be with his wife and four children. After a short stint working for a delivery company, Mr. Oliver was inspired to become a teacher again and sought the Santa Ana High School NJROTC program. His dedicated focus on his students became evident to all that witnessed him teach. He was not only a teacher, but a mentor, friend, and at times even a father figure to his students. It is because he genuinely loved his students that they loved him. While working with Santa Ana High School's NJROTC unit for almost 21 years, he helped develop one of the most distinguished units in the country. They received numerous awards including "Distinguished Unit" for 17 years in a row, "Most Improved Unit," and honored as one of the top 5 NJROTC units in the nation.

Mr. Oliver has enriched the lives of everyone he encounters and is a pillar of his community. His time in both the Navy and NJROTC will be remembered, and we are saddened to see him leave. His actions deeply impact all his students who will carry on his legacy. Even though he is retiring, he will continue to be a teacher, leading by example and demonstrating the best qualities of a life lived in service. I am truly honored to recognize Mr. Oliver today for his service in the U.S. military and for improving and guiding the lives of future generations.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH COUNTRY PUBLIC RADIO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize North Country Public Radio on its 50th anniversary.

North Country Public Radio (NCPR) is a public radio network with a mission to inform, enrich, and connect the community. Based out of Canton, New York, the network is the NPR affiliate for the North Country, providing NPR programming as well as music and award-winning regional news coverage. In addition, NCPR serves as the emergency broadcast system for many communities within the North Country. Established in 1965 with a single transmitter covering St. Lawrence County, NCPR expanded to operate 34 transmitters today, serving not only the entire Adirondack North Country region, but also western Vermont and southeastern Ontario.

NCPR provides a particularly important service to my district, delivering invaluable content to the people of the North Country. The hard work of NCPR employees has greatly expanded the options available to North Country residents, whether they are looking for entertainment programming or for news and information.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank NCPR for prioritizing the enrichment of our community during its 50 years of broadcasting.

RECOGNIZING FAIRMOUNT FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless actions of several members from the Fairmount Fire Department who went above and beyond the call of duty to help an elderly couple.

On January 12, 2018, members of the Fairmount Fire Department were called to the residence of an elderly couple in Camillus, New York. Heavy rains and melting snow had flooded their basement, leaving their hot water heater and furnace submerged under a foot of water. To make matters worse, temperatures that evening were expected to plummet to below freezing, putting the couple's safety in danger. With no family in the area to assist, and unable to relocate for the night, the Fairmount Fire Department came to the rescue.

Exhibiting consummate professionalism, the first responders replaced a broken sump pump to drain remaining water from the couple's basement. Fairmount's Fire Chief personally arranged for a last-minute heater installation. Ernie Kreis, the owner of Ernie Kreis and Sons Heating Co. Inc., rushed to the couple's home, and placed heaters throughout the house to keep the couple warm. The following day, Fairmount firefighters returned with dehumidifiers while Mr. Kreis and his crew finished installing a new furnace and hot water tank.

Today, it is my distinct honor to recognize Fairmount Fire Department's President Greg Popp, Chief of Fire Scott Clarke, Lieutenant Chris Barlow, Jesse Belon, Stephanie Barlow, Billy Spinelli, Zachary Benjamin, Chris Sheedy, and Lucas Patchen for their selfless actions. Fairmount Fire Department is comprised of countless community volunteer firefighters, and I am grateful for their countless hours working to keep the public safe.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR GENERAL (MG) JERRY KEETON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of retired Mississippi Army National Guard and Army Reserve Major General (MG) Jerry Keeton who passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in Baldwin, Mississippi. MG Keeton, a native of Wheeler, Mississippi, was known for his devotion to God, country, family, and to his many friends.

MG Keeton was born on March 17, 1937. He enjoyed playing basketball at Wheeler High School and served as the captain of the team when they won the 1955 State Basketball Championship. Upon graduation, MG Keeton entered Mississippi State University (MSU), where he continued his love of basketball by serving as the co-captain of the MSU Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team. The team won the Southeastern Conference Championship in 1959. He was also a member of the

Blue Key Honor Society and President of the M-Club. He was a proud ROTC Graduate. MG Keeton was a Distinguished Engineering Fellow and earned a degree in civil engineering in 1959.

In 1960, MG Keeton joined the United States Army. The following year, MG Keeton married Josie Browning. He began a long and successful career that included command of troops at the Platoon, Company, Battalion, Brigade, and Group unit levels in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He served as Deputy Commander, Reserve Command of the 2nd U.S. Army located at Fort Gillem, Georgia. Following a long and distinguished military career, MG Keeton retired from the Army in 1993.

In the civilian world, MG Keeton was a registered professional engineer. He worked for the USDA National Resources Conservation Service from 1965–2002 as a supervisory civil engineer. While living in Tupelo, Mississippi, MG Keeton was an active member of Harrisburg Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

After a distinguished engineering career, MG Keeton retired and moved back to his hometown. He and his wife became members of Booneville First Baptist Church. It was in Wheeler where MG Keeton decided to become a cattle farmer. In addition to his love of farming, MG Keeton enjoyed hunting for quail and going fishing. He remained a loyal fan of Mississippi State University and Wheeler High School athletics, regularly attending games, especially basketball.

Jerry Hutcheson, a friend of MG Keeton and fellow member of Booneville First Baptist Church, said he always enjoyed MG Keeton's sense of humor. He liked to make people laugh. "Jerry was just a good guy," Mr. Hutcheson said. "He loved to talk politics every morning as a member of the Hardee's Coffee Club. He was devoted to everyone in the Berea Sunday School Class and to all his fellow senior adults in the church. He loved people."

A funeral was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at First Baptist Church in Booneville. Reverend Carter Smith and Dr. Lynn Jones officiated. MG Keeton was laid to rest at the Booneville Cemetery.

MG Keeton is survived by his wife of 56 years, Josie Browning Keeton; their son, Joe Keeton; and his brother, Billy Keeton. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilmer E. and Helen Martin Keeton.

MG Keeton was a true leader, who proudly served our nation. He touched many lives in both his professional and private life. MG Keeton will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. KURT TOPPEL

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Kurt Toppel—a beloved father, husband, and Los Angeles community leader—who passed away on February 9, 2018 at the age of 85.

Kurt Toppel was born in Cologne, Germany and immigrated to the U.S. in 1954. He served